

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

Fact Sheet Treatment Program Impact

Fiscal Year 2009-10

California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)

The funding for the CalWORKs Substance Abuse and Mental Health services remains in question for this fiscal year. In the interim, the Departments of Public Social Services (DPSS) believes that the funding for substance abuse (SA) and mental health supportive services will be kept in tact. Operating under this assumption, CalWORKs program funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-10 will continue at the December 2008 levels.

The Departments of Public Social Services (DPSS), Mental Health (DMH), and ADPA are moving forward with their efforts to improve services to persons identified as having a co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorder (COD). The ultimate goal is to engage COD participants in SA treatment, as another step toward enabling them move from welfare to work. Those programs that responded to the 2008 CalWORKs Co-Occurring Disorders Survey by expressing an interest in serving persons with a COD will be contacted in the near future to discuss the feasibility of co-locating a substance abuse counselor at a DMH clinic site. Those agencies who have worked with the Substance Abusing Mentally Ill or (SAMI) project know that there are a limited number of County operated DMH sites. Since the CalWORKs dollars have not been removed from agency contracts, programs may also opt to use the funds to strengthen their staffing to include a licensed person who will be able to verify the need for continued treatment for your program participants and begin working toward serving CalWORKs participants who may have other program needs including COD,

As a reminder under the DPSS New Directions Directive, many CalWORKs participants in outpatient treatment may be contacted to determine their ability to participate in Welfare-To-Work activities after 90 days of treatment. Agencies will need to have a licensed clinician (Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist, or Medical Doctor) complete the verification that the CalWORKs participant has a significant disability and can only participate in substance abuse treatment for a specific period of time. This review and certification will be required periodically, therefore programs are encouraged to review the Directive and consider possible program impact.

ADPA is required to move forward with the resolicitation of CalWORKs treatment services this Fall. Agencies will be kept informed on this process through the regularly scheduled CalWORKs and Treatment Provider meetings.

Proposition 36 Services

The Department of Public Health's - Alcohol and Drug Program Administration (ADPA) currently contracts with 97 community-based organizations to provide residential and non-residential services to persons eligible for Proposition 36 services.

Proposition 36 Services are currently being recommended for funding at the level of \$68 million Statewide (\$50 million Byrne Grant and \$18 million State Offender Treatment Program funding). This level of funding would represent a 50 percent reduction in the current program dollars. Under this scenario Los Angeles County may receive between \$15 – \$16 million, and fund services to only one half the participants seen last F/Y 2008-09.

Effective July 1, 2009, the Superior Courts changed the supervision for Proposition 36 cases by spreading the services to more than 200 court rooms. Additionally the Court decided that Proposition 36 participants would be supervised on average for 180 days and would be limited to four court appearances. Court Area Coordinators have been designated for each courthouse to support Proposition 36 services.

The Courts are requiring the following participant reports. Progress reporting to the Court will be set as follows:

- Sixty (60) day treatment progress report, and
- 180 day treatment report for final review and dismissal

Treatment agencies will continue to receive participants referred from the Community Assessment Service Centers (CASC). Due to the reduced funding, the CASC have moved to using the LITE Addiction Severity Index - for assessments.

Treatment agencies will continue to use the Treatment Court Probation eXchange (TCPX) Web Based Browser System to prepare Participant Progress and Treatment Discharge reports, data entry, and required updates.

The ADPA and Internal Services Department Information Systems staffs (IS) have expanded the TCPX system to provide visibility to over 300 courts designated to serve participants in the Proposition 36 program.

As of Friday July 10, 2009 IS had established system access and provided the user IDs to all identified courts; and provided electronic TCPX training manuals and handouts for court staff cross training. To minimize the Informational Technology cost, the courts will conduct their own internal training, IS will continue to provide logistical support as needed.

The Proposition 36 Treatment Matrix will remain at the October 2007 Service Levels. There will be a few significant changes to treatment services:

- Continuing Care Services will be eliminated. Programs are encouraged to continue evidence based practices that support the fact that discharge planning begins at admission and continues throughout treatment.
- All Proposition 36 participants regardless of level who are in primary treatment or in Continuing Care prior to July 1, 2009, will be provided with one (1) continuing care visit to allow for transition out of the Proposition 36 program.
- Drug testing will be limited to a maximum of one random observed (UA) test every other week.

A number of questions were raised at the June 29th Proposition 36 Task Force Meeting. One of the handouts being shared today is a listing of the questions that ADPA received and responses to those questions. This will help to guide treatment agencies in making decisions related to the Proposition 36 program and your continued treatment services. A copy of these questions will also be posted on the Proposition 36 section of ADPA's website.

Finally, ADPA staff has developed a bulletin that covers the changes to Proposition 36 treatment services. Please give the bulletin wide distribution among your staff, it will cover the information presented in our meetings, and serve as a good reference for SA counselors treating Proposition 36 participants.

As always, your agencies Contract Program Auditor and the Proposition 36 Help Line are available to assist you. These changes to our treatment services are a work in progress; ADPA looks forward to our continued collaboration in providing treatment and recovery services to Los Angeles County residents.

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